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CONSIDERATIONS

ON THE

American Trade.

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American Trade,

Before and Since the

ESTABLISHMENT

OF THE

South-Sea Company.

— *Pudet hæc opprobria vobis
Et dici potuisse, & non potuisse refelli.*

Ovid.

L O N D O N :

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CONSTITUTIONS

OF THE

AMERICAN TRADE

THE AMERICAN





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T having been thought advisable, as well for his Majesty's more immediate Service, as for the Benefit of his Trading Subjects, to endeavour some more effectual Means of securing and encouraging the *British* Trade to *America*; and for the Encouragement of Seamen to enter into his Majesty's Service, a Bill was brought into the House for those Purposes; and from the natural

tural good Tendency of it, I believe there was very few Members of that Honourable House, and, I may say, not a Man out of the House, that is any ways conversant in the *American Trade*, a Well-wisher to his Country, and divested of selfish and sinister Views and Principles, but what was desirous the said Bill should pass into a Law. But after it had been read and committed, I own, I was surprized to hear, the *South-Sea Company* intended to oppose it; and could not imagine what might be their Reason for such a Conduct, 'till the Purport of their Petition appear'd in the printed Votes of the 10th of *December* last; wherein They have wisely set forth what I believe few People before were apprized of; that is to say, the exorbitant Powers and Privileges granted them by that hopeful Legacy of the late E—— of *Ox——d's*, their Charter, and said to be in pursuance of an Act passed in the Ninth Year of her late Majesty Queen *Anne*. This naturally led me to consider what good Use had been made of those extraordinary Powers; and I must declare I have not been able yet to find any thing that can give me Satisfaction in that Point; but, on the contrary, I think I shall be able to prove, even to Demonstration, that the Powers granted by the said Charter

Charter have never yet been serviceable to the Nation in general, or to the Company in particular; but highly disadvantageous to both; and therefore not reasonable to be continued; at least, not in such a Manner as to deprive the rest, and more useful Part of his Majesty's Subjects, of those Rights, Privileges and Encouragements, which by the said Bill (now depending before the House of Lords) are wisely and justly provided for them. In order therefore to determine whether or not it may be reasonable still to continue the Powers of their Charter in their full Latitude, and without any Restriction, it will be proper to state the following Heads, which I shall do by way of Query: And, as I am apprehensive the present Directors will not think themselves under any Necessity, or Obligation, to answer them in *foro Conscientiæ*, if at all, I shall consider them as well as the Light I can have into them will admit, and say something to each of them separately in order as they follow.

I. WHETHER the *Assiento* Trade, from the Time the *South-Sea* Company have had that Contract, has been of any real Advantage
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either to the Nation in general, or to the Company in particular?

II. WHETHER the Privilege of having an Annual Ship to carry on a Trade to the *Spanish West-Indies* has been of any Advantage to the Company in particular?

III. WHETHER the Private Trade, as it was formerly carried on from *Jamaica*, was not of infinitely more Advantage to the Nation in general, than any Trade that has been carried on by the Company ever since they have had the *Affiento Contract*; which, together with the Act of Parliament mention'd in their Petition, they have made subservient to no other End than distressing and ruining the Private Trade by all manner of Means they could contrive and execute?

IV. WHETHER by some unwarrantable Proceedings of the Company, or their Agents, and by Informations that have been given by their Connivance, if not by their Direction, the *Spaniards* have not been encourag'd and incited to the many Depredations and Acts of Cruelty they have committed on the lawful Traders; and thereby are in a great measure, if not solely, the Occasion of laying His Majesty

jeſty under a Neceſſity of taking ſuch Steps as He is now engag'd in, for obtaining Redreſs for his injur'd Subjects, and of putting the Nation to the immense Charge they muſt unavoidably be at to ſupport His Maſteſty in ſo laudable an Enterprize ?

1ſt, AND to ſpeak to the firſt Head propoſed whether the *Aſſiento* Trade, from the Time the *South-Sea* Company have had that Contract, has been of any real Advantage either to the Nation in general, or to the Company in particular ? It is very notorious, or if it were not ſo, it may eaſily be prov'd, that the Proprietors, or thoſe concern'd in an *Aſſiento* Contract with *Spain* before the *Engliſh* enjoy'd it, were always conſiderable Loſers thereby ; and, I believe there is not One in the preſent Direction that will pretend to aſſert, that the *South-Sea* Company have had any better Succeſs with it ; but, on the contrary, muſt allow that they have been ſevere Sufferers by it. And, indeed, how ſhould it be otherwiſe, ſince it is no Secret that they have been yearly deficient ſome Thouſands in the Number of Negroes which by the Contract they were oblig'd to furniſh the *Spaniards* withal ? and That, under the Penalty of paying ſo much

per Head to the King of *Spain* for as many as they should import less than the Number contracted for; so that the very Difficiency must eat up more than the Profit that was produced by those they did furnish them with. Notwithstanding This, no Private Trader was permitted to supply their Defects in any shape whatsoever; but, like the Dog in the Manger, they could neither eat themselves, nor suffer those who had an Appetite to indulge it; for no sooner a Ship was begun to be fitted out from *Jamaica* with Slaves for the *Spanish* Coast, than the Factories upon the Continent had Information given them of the Design, by the *South-Sea* Company's Agents; and Application being made thereupon to the *Spanish* Governours, either a sufficient Number of Soldiers were order'd down to the Coast the Ship was bound to, or else a *Guarda-Costa* sent out to cruize after and take them; either of which must be equally fatal to the Concern'ds; and therefore, ever since the End of Queen *Anne's* War there has not been above two or three Ships that have been engag'd in Private Trade; the ill Success of those having sufficiently deterr'd others from adventuring in the like manner.

IT is a Truth well known, That whilst the *Spanish* Coast was supply'd with Negroes from *Jamaica* by private Persons, it was upon the Whole a very profitable Trade to the Concern'ds. It may likewise be made appear beyond Contradiction, that the Number of Negroes then supply'd the *Spaniards*, amounted annually to three times as many as ever have been sent them by the Company in any one Year since they have been in Possession of the Contract. This Deficiency in the Number of Slaves that might and, in all probability, would have been sent from our own Colonies to the Coast of *Spain* by the Private Traders, with the profitable Returns that might have been expected for them, had they been permitted to have continued that Trade, is apparently so much real Loss to the Nation in general; and this too without any Advantage to the Company, who, tho' they have not exported above one Third of the Number of Negroes that the Private Traders would have done, could not even effect so much, but at a considerable Loss to themselves; and consequently must thereby encrease the general Loss to the Nation. But we must yet look further before we shall discover all the Disadvantages and Inconveniencies that

have been occasion'd by the Suppression of the Private Trade, and this Contract taking place; for by how much the Strength and Security of the Island of *Jamaica* has been impair'd thereby, so much the Nation must have been weaken'd in that Part: For as in a Natural Body, not one of the Members can suffer, without the Head being in some measure effected by it more or less; the same it is in the Body Politick, saving that the Effect may not be so soon felt. And that this has, in a deplorable Manner, been the Case, I shall have occasion to shew hereafter in considering the third Head; and therefore I shall not enlarge thereon at present, but proceed to the Consideration of the second Query, *viz.*

2dly, WHETHER the Privilege of having an Annual Ship to carry on a Trade to the *Spanish West-Indies* has been of any Advantage to the Company in particular?

AND hereon, I must own, very little can be said to Satisfaction, without knowing in the first Place what Profits were made on the Annual Ship's Cargoes after the contingent Charges are deducted; and, in the second Place,

Place, the Value of the Seizures that have been made at different Times by the King of *Spain's* Officers under several Pretences; which, whether well or ill-grounded, is not my Business to enquire: Tho', if I may be allow'd to conjecture from the Conduct of some who have been formerly in the Direction of the Company's Affairs, the clandestine Trade, carried on by them and their Agents, may have very justly rous'd the *Spaniards* natural Jealousy: However, be the Motive what it will, the Loss would be sure to fall on the Company; and therefore the Value of those Seizures must be deducted from the Net Proceeds of the Cargoes of the Annual Ships, before it can be really known whether on the Whole the Company have been Gainers or Losers thereby: And when that is done, it will be well if the Ballance be not found to turn out to their Prejudice; especially if it be considered what very large Sums the Company had outstanding when those Seizures were made, great Part whereof 'tis not now likely they will ever be able to recover. But if it remains only a Doubt whether this Article has been profitable or not to the Company; it's sufficient to shew the wide Disproportion between That
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and the certain Profit attending the Trade, as it was carried on by Private Traders; which brings me to the Consideration of the third Query proposed, *viz.*

3dly, WHETHER the Private Trade, as it was formerly carried on from *Jamaica*, was not of infinitely more Advantage to the Nation in general, than any Trade that has been carried on by the Company ever since they have had the *Affiento Contract*, which, together with the Act of Parliament mention'd in their Petition, they have made subservient to no other End than distressing and ruining the Private Trade by all manner of Means they could contrive and execute?

ANY Person who has the least Knowledge of the Private Trade formerly carried on from *Great-Britain* to the *Spanish Coast* by way of *Jamaica*, may be able to determine on which Side of the Question to give the Advantage. The Private Trade us'd to take off of our Hands yearly many hundred thousand Pounds Value, more than was ever shipp'd by the *South-Sea Company* in their Annual Ships to *New Spain*, and to a much greater Profit to those concern'd in them.

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The Private Traders were in no wise subject to the King of *Spain's* Seizures to lessen their Profits; their Ships were equipp'd with Strength sufficient to defend and protect themselves against any Piratical Attempts whatsoever by Sea; and they usually no sooner had an Opportunity of compleating their Business ashore, than they brought their Returns back with them. But since the Company have had the sole Liberty of Trade vested in them, the Private Trader cannot possibly meet with any Prospect of Success; for tho' he should be prepared to defend himself against any *Guarda-Costa* that might be sent out against him; yet, upon Information from the Company's Agents, the Trade would be prevented, by having Soldiers planted along the Coasts. Let any one then consider what Advantages, what an annual certain Profit the Nation must have lost for so many Years past, by the Obstruction our Private Trade has met with from the Company! How many Thousands in *Great - Britain* have suffer'd thereby, and been depriv'd of an industrious and gainful Subsistence! What a many of the Inhabitants of *Jamaica* have been drove from thence, for want of Employ; besides the Number of Sailors who
had

had their Dependance thereon, and are since forced to seek their Bread amongst Foreigners in other Parts of the World! As a Confirmation of this melancholy Truth, I would only instance the once flourishing Condition of *Portugal*; where, upon Beat of Drum, they could in half an Hour have rais'd Three Thousand able Seamen; few of them but what were qualify'd to have been Pilots to any Part of the *Spanish* Coast, and all of them fit for any Service that could be propos'd in the *West-Indies*: And now it is very much a Question, whether the like Number could be rais'd throughout the whole Island.

If the Company by their and their Agents Informations against the Private Trade, had thereby benefited and encreased their own; and that their own Trade was apparently of equal Advantage to the Nation and themselves, that the Private Trade has heretofore been, there could then be the less room for any Party to complain: But it being exactly the Reverse, their own Trade always having been a losing one to the Nation, and the Private exceedingly beneficial to it, it naturally follows, that the Powers granted them by their Charter have not been employ'd to any good Purpose, but to many mischievous ones. I wish I may not in some Parts of the forego-
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ing Discourse have been misapprehended, in regard to the Term *Private Trade*, which I have so frequently made use of: For it is not impossible that some unwary Readers, who are no Strangers to the glaring Transactions of some that are or have been in the Direction of the Company's Affairs, may mistake me so far, as to think me an Advocate for a Clandestine Trade carried on in the Company's own Ships at their Expence by their own Servants; therefore I take this Opportunity once for all to explain myself; That by Private Trade I mean such a one as us'd to be formerly carried on by particular Adventurers in their own Vessels, and at their own Expence and Risque; and that if I should hereafter have Occasion to mention the other, I shall call it an Illicit, rather than a Clandestine one, because I think that Name is better adapted to it: For what is or has been transacted in the Face of the Sun, tho' egregiously illicit, cannot properly be said to be clandestine: And so far those Gentlemen may with a good deal of Truth affirm, that they have not traded clandestinely. But here is another very material ill Consequence to our Trade from *Great-Britain* presents itself in so formidable a Shape, that I am afraid it

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will baffle both the Strength and Policy of the Company or their Agents to overcome it; and That is, that by their having obstructed our own Trade in the Manner that has been shewn, they have now thrown a great Part of it into the Hands of the *Dutch* and *French*, who have convinced us, by fatal Experience, that they know how to improve such lucky Incidents, and do not easily part with them again. The former now supply the *Spaniards* with the Linnens, &c. which they us'd to be furnish'd with from us: And tho' they do it at a very great Expence, as they are oblig'd to Man their Ships, and be prepar'd to force a 'Trade, which they do not lie near so conveniently for carrying on as we do from *Jamaica*, and are besides under a Necessity of being a long Time out from *Curaçao*, all which must lessen the Profits, as it advances the Price of their Commodities; they, notwithstanding, find the Sweets of it, and vigorously pursue it; whilst the *English* who enjoy so much more advantageous a Situation in the Island of *Jamaica*, where they can be advis'd what is wanted on the Continent, can fit out and supply any Part of it in a few Days, and, consequently, at a much less Expence, are forc'd to remain in a State of Inactivity and

and Decay. I think no one that has read thus far, will have occasion to enquire what it is that has given these Nations such an Advantage over us; because the Reason is obvious. They have no Agents to send Informations beforehand of their Designs, nor Factories to make Application against them. They can fit out their Ships to any Part of the Continent without any Danger of the *Spaniards* being immediately prepar'd to prevent them; but for the generality make a Trade before it is known by the Governours or Officers that they are upon the Coast. How widely different from this is it with our own Private Traders? who, if they were to make Preparation for a Trading Voyage to the Continent, the Spies immediately ring the Alarm-Bell; their Scheme is publish'd before they can arrive upon the Coast, and the greatest good Fortune that can then attend them after their Trade is thus prevented, is to get back again with their Effects, and preserve their Liberty. Thus careful and solicitous are the *South-Sea* Company and their Agents to distress and ruin the Private Trade: To what End and Purpose, perhaps, we may be able to make some shrewd Conjectures, in considering the last Head propos'd, *viz.*

4thly, WHETHER by some unwarrantable Proceedings of the Company, or their Agents, and by Informations that have been given by their Connivance, if not by their Direction, the *Spaniards* have not been encourag'd and incited to the many Depredations and Acts of Cruelty they have committed on the lawful Traders, and thereby are, in a great measure, if not solely, the Occasion of laying His Majesty under a Necessity of taking such Steps as He is now engag'd in, for obtaining Redress for his injur'd Subjects, and of putting the Nation to the immense Charge they must unavoidably be at to support His Majesty in so laudable an Enterprize.

IT will naturally be expected, before I deduce the Consequence contain'd in this last Head of my Argument, that I should say something further to corroborate what has already been offer'd in regard to the Informations and other Means us'd to distress and ruin the Private Trade; which I shall presently comply with, and, I believe, to a Degree of Satisfaction to the Publick. But in the mean time let us see if we can discover what Inducement these Gentlemen can have to be thus violent against it. Does the
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Private Trade any ways lessen the Company's Profits? No.— Is it of any Detriment to the Nation in general? Far from it: We have shewn that it is undeniably advantageous to it.— Does the Company send out a Penny-worth the more Goods from *Great-Britain* by the Private Trade's being suppress'd? That can't be, because their Quota is limited, and they have never failed to go to the Extent of it.— Is it with a View of ingratiating themselves the more with the *Spaniards*? That will never do: For, tho' it might answer such an End with the hungry Governours and Officers, who, it's well known, do not take Trouble upon themselves without being well-paid for it; yet it must have a quite contrary Effect on the Natives in general, and rather tend to make them despis'd than respected.— What then can be the Reason of such a Conduct? Why, really, unless they suppress the Private Trade, that they may have the greater Opportunity of carrying on an Illicit one in the room of it, I can see no other. — And this must bring to every one's Mind the extraordinary Tunnage of their Annual Ships, and the Means that have been us'd to supply that Tunnage with Bale and other Goods on private Accounts, which

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was put aboard at Places convenient for their Purpose. The Affair of the *Prince William*, Captain *Cleland*, and the Affidavits that were made by two Men who went the Voyage in the Ship, must be still recent in every Body's Memory : And if they were not, sundry Transactions of a later Date cannot fail to refresh them. Can any Body be so blind, as not to see that G——no's Discovery of the Private Illicit Trade that was carried on from hence in the Annual Ships, gave him that uncommon Influence which he had in the Direction of the Company's Affairs ? It's possible he might think the D——rs had too great a Share in that Trade, and therefore would not be easy with them 'till he was roundly let into it himself : Certain it is, that no Man knew their private Concerns better than he did, nor, I believe, had at last a greater fellow-feeling ; and therefore no wonder if he should join his Endeavours to theirs, out of a pretended Zeal for the Service of the King of *Spain*, whilst he was his Agent, to suppress the Private Trade in *Jamaica*, that they might thereby engross as much as they could of it in an illicit manner to themselves. Nor is it at all impossible, that a Set of leading Men in the Direction may be so far
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influenc'd by a *Spanish* Minister or Agent with the tempting Bait of being encourag'd and tolerated abroad in their Illicit Trade, as to put them upon Methods of obstructing, in a great measure, even the Licit Trade of the Company itself: I say, such a Thing is not impossible, nor yet improbable; and therefore the best Way to prevent such an Evil, and take away even the Suspicion of it, would be to choose Directors annually, as in other Companies: But this must be submitted to Those in whose Power alone it is to prescribe Bounds to their inordinate Itch of Oppression, and to make such Alterations and Restrictions in their original Constitution, as may be found consistent with Justice, in regard to His Majesty's other Trading Subjects, and expedient for the Interest of the Nation in general. And lest any one should doubt whether or not this Opposition to the Private Traders proceeds from the Directors, or is rather an officious Act of their Agents only, the latter have declar'd that they have Instructions from those in the Direction, to prevent all Private Trade: Which, for the Reasons before alledg'd, can be with no other View, than to engross the Whole to themselves. But I must here likewise observe that

that their Agents do not always make the Interest of the Company the absolute Standard of their Actions : By no means ; for they have very often private and separate Views of their own to satisfy, which the Company have nothing to do with, any further than that their Authority is made use of to cloak their Agents Schemes. This, I think, will appear pretty evident, from a late Transaction of their Agents, who wrote a Letter to Commodore *Dent*, desiring and requiring him to stop a Vessel that was loaden with Provisions, and ready to sail for *Porto Bello*, in order to supply the Inhabitants of *Panama*, who were then reduc'd to great Necessity by a Fire, which had almost destroy'd that City. The Commodore knowing that the Company's Interest was not concern'd in the Matter, and that the Agents had no other View in what they pretended, but to engross the Profit on those Supplies to themselves, which they had provided for, by making some very large Purchases for that Purpose, he generously sent Mr. *Dalzell* their Letter open, and refus'd to take any Cognizance of the Matter, which intirely overfet the Agents Designs ; it being at that Time to no purpose to send Informations to the Factory on the Coast, or to complain

complain and make Remonstrances to the *Spanish* Governour; because Notice had been publish'd, That any private Vessels might have Admittance to bring Provisions at that critical Conjunction, to supply the pressing Necessities of the calamitous Inhabitants. And in reality, if the Private Trade was a Detriment to the Company (which I deny, and have made the contrary appear) then their own Agents have been, and still are, the greatest Enemies they have: It being a Notoriety of the first Magnitude, that they carry on all the Private Trade they can; and one of them, J—M——r in an imprudent, mean, and most scandalous Manner, has discover'd more of it than ever was known before, by contending for a Share of some little trifling Charge for Wharfage of Goods carried out by the Company's inferiour Officers, which, it can be made appear, he had a Part of for granting them that Liberty. This M——r has further taken upon him to administer an Oath to all the Commanders in the Company's Service, not to receive any Gold, Silver, or other Effects on board their Vessels, unless it be consign'd to themselves: The particular Form of this Oath, it being an Original in it's Kind, the Publick shall be

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presented with in a little Time. By this unwarrantable Proceeding, several considerable Sums have been prevented being shipp'd by the native *Spaniards*, and, instead of being sent by the Way of *England*, where it would have left Commission, Insurance, and other incidental Perquisites, the *Spaniards* chose rather to submit to the *Indulto*, and send it Home directly to *Old Spain* by their own Channel. This is therefore manifestly so much Loss to the Nation, and is owing to the Apprehensions the *Spaniards* are under, that Information might be given against them by *M——r* to *G——no*, the King of *Spain's* late Ag——t: Many of the principal Traders amongst them affirming it was upon *M——r's* giving Information of their Names to *G——no*, that occasion'd several of them being sent Home to *Old Spain* in Irons, their Effects seiz'd and confiscated, and they themselves banish'd to *Ceuta* in *Barbary*. What still adds to the Inhumanity of the Action is, that several of the Gentlemen seiz'd, were the very Persons he had himself traded with in a Ship of Negroes that he went in for that Purpose to the *South Cais* or Coast, and from them he procur'd the Names of their Acquaintance, who were Traders in the same Way:

Way : All which the *Spaniards* affirm he transmitted to G——no. It is certain, there are several Circumstances that happen'd on board the Ship at the same Time to corroborate their Assertions ; two whereof I shall mention : The First is, that Capt. *Lee*, who was Commander of the Ship, observ'd that M——r committed to writing what Information he had collected from the trading *Spaniards* that came aboard, and afterwards wrote a Letter, from those Minutes he had taken, of two Sheets of Post Paper, which Capt. *Lee* declar'd was address'd to G——no. The other Circumstance is still stronger against him ; and that is, One of the *Spaniards* on board saying, among other Things in a jocular manner, to another that was with him, My Friend, what if the Governour should make a Discovery of our Trade ? Why then, says the other, in Answer, I'll move off with what I have to my Friend in *Jamaica* : Which Expressions were literally retorted on those unfortunate Gentlemen at their Hearing in *Old Spain*, before they were banish'd to *Ceuta*. Such a scandalous Violation of *Old English* Honour, Fidelity, and Humanity, is scarce to be parallel'd in History ; and I am apt to think that on reading so vile a Transaction, there

hardly can be a Person so lost and abandon'd to all Sence of Virtue, as not to be mov'd with the utmost Indignation against the Actor of it. After what has been offer'd, what will it avail *M——r*, that he himself denies to have given this Information? No Body can expect that he would directly take such a Load of Infamy to himself; tho' he acknowledges, he had a Correspondence with *G——no*. Upon what can any thinking Person imagine, that such a Correspondence should turn, but upon the barbarous Subject we have been mentioning? Or at least that must have been his first Introduction to *G——no's* Correspondence. It is reported in *Jamaica*, that *G——no* has declar'd his Majesty of *Spain* has not a Subject in all his Dominions more serviceable than *M——r*: A Declaration that reflects no Honour upon him, and is what every *Englishman* ought to be asham'd of. It's not unlikely that this Correspondence might afterwards be improv'd, and that *M——r* might have the Management of the private Concerns in Trade that *G——no* was engaged in; or, I should say rather, a Share in the Management: For it's natural to suppose that *Dominic Verdon*, an *Irish Roman Catholick* in *Jamaica* (who had Letters

Letters of Recommendation from G—— to M——, and likewise to the *Spanish* Governour and Officer at *Carthagena*, whither he went, to be sure not to carry on an illicit Trade, but purely to shew the greater Regard to his Patron's Recommendations, by delivering them with his own Hands) had a pretty large Part to act therein. On the whole, certain it is that some of the Assembly at *Jamaica* were so fully convinced of M——'s Guilt, by several Letters in the Hands of some Gentlemen there, which they receiv'd from the Continent, that it was propos'd to have had him call'd before them, and to have voted him an Enemy to his Country; which would certainly have been put in Execution, had it not been out of a tender Regard to the Persons who wrote those Letters, who, on their Names being expos'd, would have run the Risque of their Lives and Fortunes, and, in all likelihood, have fallen a Sacrifice to the Resentment of a treacherous Informer. And, after all, would it not be highly ungrateful, if this *diligent*, this *honest*, this *faithful* Servant of the Company's, should fail of being suitably countenanc'd and encourag'd by such *wise*, such *upright*, and such *disinterested* Managers as are now at the Head of their

their Concerns? But that those worthy Gentlemen may not lie under the least Imputation of so odious a Neglect, I can assure my Readers, that they have not been any ways deficient in that Respect. I expect in a very little Time to be able not only to convince the World that they deserve the Thanks of a General Court for this Part of their Conduct, but likewise to point out which of them ought to be more particularly signaliz'd for the extraordinary Share of Merit they may claim on this Account: All which, out of Justice to their Deserts, I shall present the Publick with, as soon as it comes to hand, tho' their Modesty should be ever so much effected by it, as to make them wish me to decline the Task.

I THINK I have little now to do, but to take leave of my Readers for the present: For it would be almost an Affront to their Understandings, to dwell long on shewing them the Application that is naturally to be made from what has been said: For, if a certain Advantage to the Nation ought to be preferr'd to a manifest Disadvantage, then the Private Trade, as it was formerly carried on by the Way of *Jamaica*, is most assuredly to be encourag'd before that carried on by the Company:

Company: And, if the vile Character of Informers is capable of rendering us odious and contemptible to the *Spaniards*, who, of all Nations under the Sun, as they are the least addicted to it, so they the most abhor and detest that infamous Practice in others. If the most barbarous Breach of Faith and Humanity that was ever committed by an *Englishman* can be suppos'd to have incens'd the *Spaniards* against us, and incited them to revenge their banish'd Countrymen's Sufferings, we may then justly infer, that the Depredations and Cruelties practis'd by them on all lawful Traders, have been owing to those Motives: And, when that is allow'd, no one need be at a loss where to fix the Source of the present necessary Measures His Majesty and the Nation are engag'd in.

F I N I S.